

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 2 March 2004. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are now amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner first objected to the Drawings, in particular, to Fig. 7 for containing an erroneous reference numeral 31. Accordingly, a Replacement Drawing Sheet containing Fig. 7 formally corrected in this regard is submitted herewith.

The Examiner also objected to the Drawings for not including reference numeral 38 mentioned in the Disclosure. That reference numeral 38 reflects a typographical error in the Specification which is now corrected to read "15," obviating the Examiner's Drawings objection.

The Examiner objected to the Disclosure for indicating that pins 31 unfold/fold when they appear to slide in relation to the casing. The appropriate paragraphs of the Disclosure are now amended to remove possible confusion from this description. The corrections thus incorporated into the Disclosure are purely formal in nature and do not introduce any new matter.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-11 for containing a number of specifically noted informalities. Each informality is now removed,

among other things, by the Claims amendments incorporated hereby.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Lee reference. The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Wu '782 reference in view of Lee. In setting forth the latter rejection, the Examiner acknowledged that Wu's first plug and pins are not stored inside the housing. The Examiner, however, cited Lee for teaching such feature, then reasoned it would have been obvious to provide a different housing shape incorporating the feature in the Wu device.

The Examiner rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lee reference in view of the Wu '460 reference. In doing so, the Examiner relied upon Wu for disclosing a charger used in conjunction with an adapter.

The Examiner further rejected Claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Wu '460 reference. The Examiner then rejected Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of the Groves, et al. reference, citing that reference for disclosing the use of a winding reel as an alternative to a messy, hanging cord. The Examiner concluded for that reason that it would have been obvious to incorporate such winding reel into the Wu device.

As each of the newly-amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 11 now more clearly recites, Applicant's adapter structure includes among its features both first

and second plugs disposed in a casing. The first plug is provided with “a pair of straight pins pivotally connecting to the casing,” which are “displaceable responsive to manipulation of a pair of pivotally displaceable covers operably coupled thereto through the casing.” As each of the pending independent Claims also now more clearly recites, the second plug is provided with “a pair of bases projecting from a sliding piece and a pair of rod-shaped pins respectively connected to extend from the bases.” The sliding piece is connected for manipulation by a pushing button “for selectively displacing the second plug between retracted and first and second extended positions,” whereby “the bases in the first extended position remain[] disposed within the casing,” while “in the second extended position extend[] with the rod-shaped pins from the casing” (as each of the pending independent Claims 1, 9, and 11 also now more clearly recites).

The full combination of these and other structural features now more clearly recited by Applicant’s pending Claims are nowhere disclosed by the cited references. Note, for instance, that the Lee device, directed as it is to the “easily operable” adapter structure specifically prescribed therein, requires a combination of features quite different from that recited by the pending Claims. Note that each of the upper and lower sets of plugs is extended and retracted by sliding a button 24, 34 back and forth between forward extension and backward retraction positions. Nowhere does the reference even suggest any “pivotally displaceable

covers operably coupled" to a first plug "through the casing," for pivotally extending such first plug, as Claims 1, 9, and 11 now more clearly recite. Moreover, each of Lee's upper and lower plugs 2, 3 is merely displaced for operation between fully retracted and fully extended positions. Nowhere does the reference even suggest either of the plugs 2, 3 to be "selectively displac[ed] ... between retracted and first and second extended positions," wherein the base portions of the given plug "in the first extended position remain[] disposed within the casing," while "in the second extended position extend[] with ... [their] rod-shaped pins from the casing."

The Wu '460 reference also fails to disclose any such features. The body of Wu's primary plug 5 (within which the secondary plug 6 is displaceably imbedded) is itself imbedded in displaceable manner within the body of an electrical charger 4. The primary plug body 5 is received in spring biased manner within the charger body's recess, such that the primary plug 5 is thus simply pushed into the recess for retraction and released for extension therefrom by manipulation of a switch member 7 located at its center. This precludes any "pivotally displaceable covers" being "operably coupled" to such plug assembly "through the casing" for the plug's displacement between extended and retracted positions, as Claims 1, 9, and 11 recite.

Both primary and secondary plugs 5, 6 in Wu are pivoted between extended and retracted positions. Hence, neither constitutes "a second plug, having a pair of

bases projecting from a sliding piece,” much less such second plug having “a pair of rod-shaped pins respectively connected to extend from the bases.” Nor do the plugs 5, 6 constitute a second plug that may be “selectively displac[ed] ... between retracted and first and second extended positions,” as also recited by Claims 1, 9, and 11.

Given such contrary teachings of the primarily-cited Lee and Wu ‘460 references, the disclosures of the secondarily-cited Wu ‘782 and Groves, et al. references are found to be quite ineffectual to the present patentability analysis. Note, in any event, that the dual plug structure of the Wu ‘782 electrical adapter is like that of the Wu ‘460 device wherein the dual plugs are each nested in pivoted manner. Consequently, neither forms any “second plug, having a pair of bases projecting from a sliding piece” for displacement responsive to a pushing button for selective displacement “between retracted and first and second extended positions,” as Claims 1, 9, and 11 clearly recite. The Groves, et al. reference includes but one set of plugs 56.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Lee, Wu ‘460, Wu ‘782, and Groves, et al. references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant’s pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

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Reply to Office Action dated 2 March 2004

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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